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*Midrasch Samuel. Agadische Abhandlung über das Buch Samuel herausgegeben, Von SALOMON BUBER. (Cracow, 1893.)*

THERE is no necessity to introduce to our readers the indefatigable and critical editor of various Midrashim, viz., the Pesikta de R. Kahnā, the Thanhuma, the Midrash on the Psalms and on Esther, which is followed now by that on Samuel. For this last work Herr Buber has made use of the editions of Constantinople, 1522, and of Venice, 1546, as well as of the Parma MS., De Rossi, 1563. In a word, he availed himself of all that is extant for the purposes of a critical edition. The editor's method is here the same as in his previous edition, viz., he gives a preface containing everything which concerns the Midrash. After having stated that the *Midrasch Samuel* is sometimes quoted, as is often the case with early Rabbinical works, by the first three words with which it begins, Herr Buber states that the fatherland of this Midrash is Palestine; then follows the enumeration of the sources of which the compiler of it made use, which gives the only clue, when no date is fixed by the compiler, for fixing it approximately. Next come an alphabetical list of the Tanaim and Amoraim quoted in this Midrash, and the enumeration of mediæval Rabbis who made use of it, the earliest of which at present known is Rashi. Then follows the description of the Parma MS., by the help of which the text of the Midrash is critically given, as well as that of the bibliography of previous editions of it. Very useful is the list of passages quoted from our Midrash in the Yalqut. We miss, however, the alphabetical list of Latin and Greek words used by the compiler of the Midrash Samuel. Herr Buber has now in preparation a critical edition of the Midrash on Lamentations, as well as an unknown Midrash on the Pentateuch, edited from a MS. acquired by him at Aleppo. When the forthcoming edition of the Great Midrash of Yemen, which Mr. Schechter has in hand, appears, as well as that of the *Yalqut Makhiri* on Isaiah and the Minor Prophets, an edition of which we may shortly expect by Dr. Gaster and Mr. Spiro (and we hope that that on Psalms will not be forgotten), there will be ample material for writing an exhaustive and critical account of the Midrashic literature, for which Zunz is still the only source.

A. NEUBAUER.

### Jews in Poland.

Mr. W. R. Morfill, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford, Reader in Russian and the other Slavonic language in the University of Oxford, has just brought out an excellent history of Poland, in the series of the History